

HOUSE No. 47

By Mr. Kaufman of Lexington, petition of Jay R. Kaufman and Ruth B. Balser relative to establishing a special commission (including members of the General Court) to make an investigation and study concerning methods to encourage debating by candidates for public office. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO ENCOURAGE CANDIDATE DEBATE
AND INFORMED VOTING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1. A voter education and voter empowerment commis-
2 sion is hereby established to consider legislation and non-legisla-
3 tive actions to encourage candidate debates and more informed
4 voting. Commissioners shall include 2 members of the house of
5 representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house (1 of
6 whom shall serve as the co-chair of the commission), 2 members
7 of the senate appointed by the president (1 of whom shall serve as
8 co-chair of the commission), 2 members appointed by the gov-
9 ernor, the secretary of state or his designee, the president of the
10 league of women voters of Massachusetts or her designee, the
11 executive director of common cause of Massachusetts or her
12 designee, the head of Massachusetts voters for fair elections, the
13 chairs of the Massachusetts democratic and republican parties or
14 their designees, 2 representatives from the Massachusetts broad-
15 casters association, 2 representatives from the state house press
16 corps, and 2 representatives from other print medias. The commis-
17 sions shall report its finding and recommendations to the clerks of
18 the house and the senate by March, 2006.